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COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR ZAIRE

Note by the Administrator

I. PROCESS OF THE PROGRAMMING EXERCISE

1. The preparation of the fourth country programme for Zaire coincided with the preparation of the first Five-Year Plan of the country (1986-1990). The exercise, which began in early 1985, was conducted in close co-operation between the Government and UNDP. The Planning Department, in association with the Department of International Co-operation and Foreign Trade, is the Government's focal point for co-ordination of all multilateral and bilateral technical assistance and spearheaded the country programming process. Major areas of intervention of the UNDP field office were in the review of the third country programme (1982-1986); the preparation of the Resident Representative's note; and the facilitation of continuous interaction and consultation between the Government of Zaire, United Nations organizations and other multilateral and bilateral agencies.

2. The note of the Resident Representative, prepared in March 1985, put forward a framework for technical co-operation for the 1987-1991 period, including programme modalities and possible sectors of UNDP intervention, based on the priorities defined in the inaugural speech of the Président-Fondateur at the inception of his third seven-year term, on 5 December 1984, and in the Five-Year National Plan and other official programming documents.

3. The country programme review meeting held in Kinshasa between 13-18 May 1985 with the participation of the Government, UNDP and United Nations executing agencies, endorsed the basic views of the note of the UNDP Resident Representative and authorized him to proceed with the preparation of the draft of the fourth country programme for Zaire, within the lines of that note.

4. The 1987-1991 country programme was outlined on the basis of: (a) the conclusions of the 1985 review meetings; (b) the permanent consultations of the UNDP office in Kinshasa with the Planning Department, the sectoral departments (ministries) and with the local representatives of the United Nations specialized agencies and World Bank; (c) the findings and recommendations of the March 1986 external mission of appraisal of the 1982-1986 country programme; (d) the conclusions and recmmendations of the evaluation and tripartite review of individual projects; and (e) reports of the sectoral missions by the United Nations executing agencies (International Labour Organisation in 1984; Department of Technical Co-operation for Development for economic planning and management, in September 1985 and April 1986; Food and Agricultural Organization for rural development in December 1985-January 1986; United Nations Industrial Development Organization in March 1986; Universal Postal Union in March 1986) and other international organizations (Industrial Bank for Reconstruction and Development in December 1985 on human resources).

5. The draft of the fourth country programme was finalized in consultation with the Planning Department and distributed to the Government and to all United Nations executing agencies and multilateral donors. It was discussed in full and open debate with the representatives of all government ministries attending, as well as with representatives of major bilateral donors, multilateral organizations and United Nations agencies - 130 persons in all - at the 1986 country programme review meeting held in Kinshasa, 10-11 June 1986. The meeting which was chaired by the Staff Commissioner of Planning approved the conclusions and recommendations of the mission of appraisal of the third country programme and also endorsed the draft of the new 1987-1991 country programme, with some recommendations that were taken into consideration by the Government in preparing the final draft.

6. The Conseil executif in formal session approved the revised draft of the 1987-1991 country programme on 18 July 1986 and submitted it officially to UNDP.

II. THE FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME

7. In 1975, the economic situation of Zaire began to deteriorate gradually. Early in 1983, the economic crisis prompted the authorities, through a reactivation of the Consultative Group, to put in hand a structural adjustment programme of radical reforms in policy and management with the support of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), based on the 1984-1985 and 1985-1986 and 1986-1987 agreements. The Government will continue to concentrate its attention on the country's economic rehabilitation and recovery, as is clearly underlined in the Five-Year Plan 1986-1990 and the 1987-1989 Public Investment Programme.

8. The Government economic strategies for development in the next years will centre on: (a) improvement of economic management capacity; (b) rehabilitation of infrastructure and production capacity; (c) development of social welfare; and (d) development of transport and communications.

9. These objectives are very accurately reflected in the fourth country programme for Zaire (1987-1991); indeed, they have practically become the objectives of the programme itself. The distribution of indicative planning figures (IPF) resources

by these objectives is as follows: (a) improvement of economic management capacity - 30.8 per cent; (b) strengthening of support structures for increasing agricultural and industrial productions - 42.8 per cent; (c) social development (employment promotion, improvement of health services and water supply, integration of handicapped) - 14.1 per cent; (d) development of transport and communications - 12.3 per cent. The fourth country programme represents a watershed in the way UNDP conducts its affairs in Zaire. It marks a clear break with the project patterns set in earlier country programme cycles, and establishes for the first time a programme closely linked to key government economic objectives and policy reforms and in harmony with the main activities of the major donors.

10. The general theme of the 1987-1991 country programme for Zaire is the development of the country's human resources to meet the needs of qualified personnel in key economic and social sectors. The new country programme contains a number of human resource studies that, in several sectors, will lead to new projects in which human resources planning, education and training etc., will have an impact. Support to women in development, especially in rural areas, and a pilot rural environment project, have also been included in the programme.

11. By sector, the breakdown percentage of IPF resources for Zaire is as follows: (a) general development issues, policies and planning - 30.8 per cent; (b) agriculture forestry fisheries - 27 per cent; (c) industry - 15.8 per cent; (d) transport and communications - 12.3 per cent; (e) health - 9.2 per cent; (f) education - 2.9 per cent; (g) social conditions and equity - 2 per cent. The first three main sectors amount to about three quarters of the whole IPF resources for Zaire during the fourth cycle.

12. The Administrator invites the attention of the Governing Council to the following significant structural feature of the country programme for Zaire. In the 1987-1991 country programme, 54 per cent of the IPF resources will be allocated to ongoing projects and 46 per cent to new projects. The bulk of the funds for the 1982-1986 cycle projects carried over will go to key planning and economic management projects which had their origin in the reorientation of the third cycle programme, carried out at the June 1984 country programme review meeting. Such projects have high relevance in helping the Government to carry out its development programme and to strengthen its ability to undertake measures of reform under new priorities established in dealings with IBRD, IMF and other members of the donor community.

III. MANAGEMENT OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

13. The co-ordination and better utilization of external technical co-operation is a major concern of the Government of Zaire. The Planning Department is assuming growing significance in programming, monitoring and evaluating both multilateral and bilateral assistance and will be responsible for the overall implementation of the country programme. There is a high degree of complementarity between the country programme and the approaches and programmes established by the Government with the World Bank and IMF.

14. UNDP will further assist the Government in its co-ordination efforts in the fourth cycle through the project ZAI/84/011, Co-ordination of External Aid, continuing to support strengthening the co-ordination and monitoring capacity of the Planning Department so that more effective use is made of external assistance, including UNDP allocations through the country programme.

15. The practice of joint meetings of the United Nations executing agencies locally represented, convened and co-ordinated by UNDP to discuss matters regarding the implementation of the country programme will be continued during the 1987-1991 country programme.

16. Annual reviews of the country programme with the participation of the Government, UNDP and international executing agencies will also be continued throughout the fourth cycle.

17. A mid-term review of the country programme will be organized in 1989.

IV. RECOMMENDATION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

18. The administrator recommends that the Governing Council approve the country programme for Zaire.